

Energy storage for electric vehicles kenya

We recently held the second edition of our Future of Energy Series at Ikigai Westlands. The conversation with industry experts from the Kenya Renewable Energy Associate (KERECA), BasiGo, Bolt Kenya, Uber Kenya, and E-Safiri delved into how Kenya has established itself as an innovation hub for electric vehicles.

Shortly after the event, the fuel crisis happened. For weeks, we were subjected to scavenger hunts and long lines at fuelling stations. We couldn't help but recall the conversation, and how the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) could and will transform mobility across the city, country, and the continent.

Let's take you back to the beginning ¶ to the first edition of The Future of Energy Series, where we learned that Kenya is a global leader in the renewable energy industry.

Kenya's electrification is one of the fastest in the world - from 23% to 80% in just the last 6 years. This has enabled the industry to grow from task lighting solutions to large-scale projects that create economic opportunities ¶ for instance the electrification of the public transport system.

This is a result of the favorable conditions and policies implemented by the Kenyan government. In 2019, the government further incentivized individuals and businesses by reducing the import duty for full EVs. In the next year, 2020, they shared plans to increase the adoption of EVs locally including plans to have electric and hybrid vehicles embedded in the public transit system.

It is generally the consensus that the switch to e-mobility is an opportunity to address multiple shortcomings of the transport industry.

The transition to e-mobility will be good for the environment. For companies such as BasiGo, this was one of their main motivations to encourage the adoption of EVs in the public transport system.

This is a great motivator for many; however, the motivations to adopt electric vehicles are three-fold.

The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) will not only be good for the environment but for livelihoods too!

Carol Ofaa, Founder of E-Safiri, highlighted that while the environmental aspect is important, the adopters are not driven by sustainability. Not because they don't want to care, but because they have other pressing matters - money and providing for their families.

It does not have to be one or the other, the adoption of EVs can achieve both. Not only would we be able to empower motorists to make deliberate choices to reduce carbon emissions, but we would also increase earning



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margins for public service drivers.

The cost of fuel is a big operating expense when it comes to Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) cars. For ride-hailing apps such as Bolt and Uber, 30% of their drivers' revenue goes to fuel. In the wake of the fuel crisis, to ensure their drivers had take-home earnings, they increased their pricing to account for the rise in fuel prices. This not only affected the driver but also the end-user - their customers.

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Web: <https://kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

